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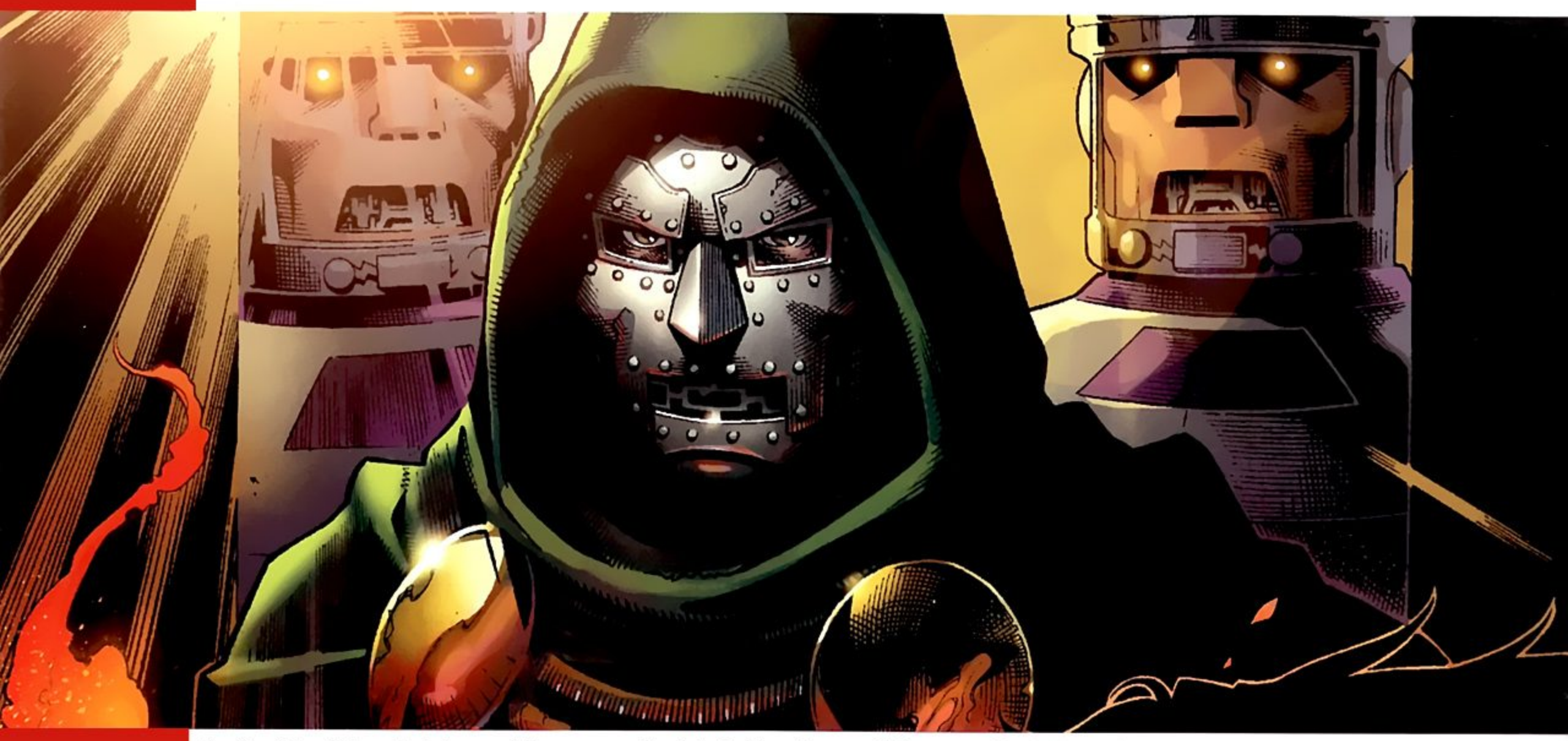
And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

AVENGERS

THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE



United by friendship and bravery, Patriot, Hawkeye, Wiccan, Hulkling, Stature, Speed, and the Vision are the Young Avengers, following in the footsteps of Earth's Mightiest Heroes!

When Wiccan loses control of his powers, the Avengers fear he has the potential to become another Scarlet Witch, the missing former Avenger who killed three of her teammates and committed what some consider a mutant genocide.

Believing the Scarlet Witch might be the key to Wiccan's future and his freedom, the Young Avengers make an uneasy alliance with the Scarlet Witch's father, the mutant terrorist Magneto. Pursued by the Avengers, Wiccan transports the Young Avengers and Magneto to Wundagore, where the Scarlet Witch was raised.

Upon arrival, they are accosted by an angry Quicksilver, Magneto's estranged son and the Scarlet Witch's brother, who attempts to assassinate his father and accidentally injures a woman who appears to be his sister, Wanda. When she is revealed to be a Doombot, Wiccan sneaks off to the castle of none other than Doctor Doom to find Wanda, who he assumes has been taken captive against her will. However, Wiccan discovers the Scarlet Witch has no recollection of her previous life and is engaged to be married…to Doom himself!

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HE'S FOUGHT THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THE X-MEN, *AND* THE AVENGERS-- SOMETIMES ALL AT THE SAME TIME--

--AND NOW DOCTOR DOOM IS FIGHTING *ME*...

WICCAN

...A HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORE WHOSE MAGIC POWERS ESSENTIALLY COME FROM *WISHING* ON STUFF REALLY HARD.

WHICH, I HAVE TO ADMIT, IS INSANELY COOL FROM A *FANBOY* PERSPECTIVE...

...EVEN IF DOCTOR DOOM *IS* ABOUT TO KILL ME.

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE COME HERE.

I KNOW THIS WILL *DISAPPOINT* YOU, CHILD...

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE *KIDNAPPED* HER.

...BUT WANDA MAXIMOFF IS HERE OF HER OWN FREE WILL.

WANDA MAXIMOFF IS HERE BECAUSE YOU'VE PUT SOME KIND OF *SPELL* ON HER.

WANDA MAXIMOFF IS IN THE *ROOM*, AND SHE CAN SPEAK FOR *HERSELF.*

WANDA! GET TO SAFETY!

TELL HER THE *TRUTH*, DOOM. TELL HER WHY I'M *HERE*. TELL HER WHO SHE REALLY *IS.*

ENOUGH!

UNHH!

VICTOR, *STOP* THIS! I BEG OF YOU--

I AM TRYING TO *PROTECT* YOU.

I AM TRYING TO PROTECT US *ALL.*

YOUR NAME IS WANDA MAXIMOFF...

...YOU ARE THE MUTANT SORCERESS KNOWN AS *THE SCARLET WITCH--*

WHAT?

HE'S TALKING NONSENSE, WANDA.

YOU WERE MARRIED TO A SYNTHEZOID CALLED *THE VISION.*

YOU HAD TWO SONS. TWIN BOYS. *THOMAS* AND *WILLIAM.*

YOU THOUGHT YOUR SONS WERE *DEAD--*

I AM *WARNING* YOU, BOY...

--BUT YOUR SONS ARE--

...YOU ARE PLAYING WITH *FIRE.*

AAAAGGHH!

KRAKK KRAKK

VICTOR! HOW *COULD* YOU--?

HE'LL LIVE.

HE'S A *CHILD*. HE HAD NO INTENTION OF HARMING ME.

YOU ARE TOO *TRUSTING*, MY LOVE...

...EVEN OF *ME*.

TOMORROW YOU MARRY THE *KING* OF LATVERIA...

...A MAN WITH MORE *ENEMIES* THAN ALLIES...

...ALL OF WHO WILL BECOME *YOUR* ENEMIES.

SO, PLEASE HEAR ME WHEN I TELL YOU...

...IT IS *NOT* TOO LATE TO *RECONSIDER*.

IF YOU HAVE ENEMIES, IT IS BECAUSE THEY DO NOT KNOW YOU AS *I* DO.

YOU *SAVED* ME, VICTOR.

YOU *KEEP* SAVING ME.

AND AFTER THE WEDDING TOMORROW...

"...NOTHING AND NO ONE WILL EVER COME BETWEEN US."

SHALL WE REVIEW THE *PLAN?*

WHAT *PLAN*, FATHER? THIS ISN'T A PLAN, IT'S A *STUNT.*

YOU'RE GOING TO CREATE SOME KIND OF *DISTRACTION* WHILE WE TRY NOT TO GET CAUGHT AND/OR KILLED SEARCHING THE CORRIDORS OF CASTLE DOOM FOR WANDA AND WICCAN.

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN TO *ME.*

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE *TWELVE.*

FIFTEEN.

EXACTLY MY *POINT.*

GUYS, CAN WE *PLEASE* JUST GO RESCUE MY IDIOT BOYFRIEND NOW?

HULKLING'S RIGHT. IF WE'RE DOING THIS, WE NEED TO DO IT *NOW.*

THEN I GUESS MAGNETO GETS HIS INVASION OF LATVERIA, AFTER ALL.

THIS IS NOT AN *INVASION,* ELI. IT'S A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL *ME.*

APPARENTLY, I *DO.*

NOW ALL WE NEED IS A HALFWAY DECENT *DISTRACTION.*

UM... KATE...?

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

MATT FRACTION • SALVADOR LARROCA

EISNER AWARD WINNER

LEARN HOW IRON MAN'S ACTIONS TODAY LEAD TO HIS FATE FOUR DECADES INTO THE FUTURE!

ISSUE #500

01.2011

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"...I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE A *PROBLEM.*"

AVENGERS, THIS IS WONDER MAN.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHETHER YOU PEOPLE ARE STILL USING THIS *COMM* FREQUENCY, BUT IF YOU'RE LISTENING, I'M IN *LATVERIAN* AIR SPACE AND--

AND YOU SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT THE WORLD NEEDS THE AVENGERS AFTER ALL?

I SUDDENLY REALIZED THAT--IF YOU'RE *FOLLOWING* ME--AND I'M PRETTY SURE YOU *ARE*--YOU NEED TO TURN AROUND BEFORE YOU PROVOKE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT OF *INTERGALACTIC* PROPORTIONS.

ACTUALLY, SIMON...

YOU'RE ALREADY *HERE,* AREN'T YOU?

UM...

BUSTED.

I ASSUME YOU'VE BEEN TRACKING MY IONIC SIGNATURE EVER SINCE I LEFT THE TOWER.

SO BUSTED.

SIMON, YOU'LL THANK ME FOR THIS IN THE END. BELIEVE ME...

"...YOU DON'T WANT TO GO UP AGAINST DOOM BY *YOURSELF.*"

MY HEAD...

BE *STILL,* BOY.

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* TO ME?

HEALING YOU.

I'VE NO GRUDGE AGAINST YOU, WICCAN.

YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

OF COURSE.

DOCTOR DOOM KNOWS WHO I AM.

AND I KNOW YOU WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR WANDA.

SO YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN I TELL YOU THAT WHAT'S ***BEST*** FOR HER--WHAT'S BEST FOR ***ALL*** OF US--IS THAT SHE REMAINS ***UNAWARE*** OF HER PAST.

YOU MEAN, WHAT'S BEST FOR ***YOU.***

WICCAN--

YOU'RE ABOUT TO MARRY A WOMAN WITH THE POWERS OF ***GOD.***

HER POWERS ARE ***GONE.***

HER MIND SEEMS TO HAVE REPRESSED HER MEMORY ***AND*** HER MAGIC TO HEAL ITSELF.

THEN HOW DID YOU EVEN ***FIND*** HER?

I DIDN'T.

"SHE FOUND ***ME.***

"SHE CAME ASKING FOR MY ***HELP***--PETITIONING ME ON BEHALF OF...HER PEOPLE.

"AND IN SPITE OF MY RELUCTANCE TO AID A FORMER ***ENEMY...***

...I FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO REFUSE HER.

GIVEN MY HISTORY, EVEN *I* FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE.

AND NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE YOU'RE IN *LOVE* WITH HER?

THAT MAKES *TWO* OF US.

WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON, YOU AND I.

MY MOTHER WAS A SORCERESS, JUST LIKE *YOURS.*

MY POWERS EMERGED WHEN I WAS A CHILD, JUST LIKE *YOU.*

WE HAVE COMMON *ENEMIES*, AS WELL.

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO THE *SONS OF THE SERPENT.*

AND I KNOW WHAT *THE AVENGERS* WILL DO TO YOU, IF THEY FIND YOU AND WANDA.

SO, I AM OFFERING YOU MY *PROTECTION.*

COME TO THE WEDDING TODAY AS OUR *GUEST*-- MINE AND YOUR MOTHER'S...

...AND YOU CAN REMAIN HERE WITH US, FREE AND SAFE, FOR AS LONG AS YOU WISH.

AND IF I REFUSE?

THE CHOICE IS *YOURS*, WICCAN:

YOU CAN BE MY GUEST...

...OR MY *PRISONER.*

BUT KNOW *THIS...*

...THE SPELL I CAST TO *HEAL* YOU...

...ALSO RELIEVED YOU OF YOUR *POWERS.*

WHAT?

THIS IS HOW YOU CREATE A DIVERSION?! THERE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE ON BOARD THOSE SHIPS!

IF THEY ARE ALLIES OF DOOM'S, I ASSURE YOU, THEY ARE FAR FROM INNOCENT.

ELI, HE'S DOING THIS FOR US. LET'S GO!

HOW ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS, KATE?

THIS IS TERRORISM. PEOPLE COULD DIE. AND IF WE LET THAT HAPPEN, THEN WE BECOME TERRORISTS, JUST LIKE MAGNETO.

PATRIOT, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH ENERGY IS REQUIRED TO KEEP THESE SHIPS FROM FALLING AND CRUSHING THE LIFE OUT OF YOU WHEN YOU SPEAK OF ME WITH SUCH DISRESPECT?

SO, IF I WERE YOU, I'D GET GOING...

...AND PROCEED WITH THE PLAN.

WHAT PLAN?

I HEARD THAT.

ELI, DO YOU TRUST ME?

OF COURSE, BUT--

THEN SHUT UP...

"...AND LET'S GO RESCUE OUR FRIEND."

DOOM'S FORTRESS CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH A SERIES OF UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAYS THAT LEAD IN AND OUT OF LATVERIA...

...THE DOORS TO WHICH CAN ONLY BE ACCESSED FROM THE ***INSIDE.***

HAWKEYE AND HULKLING WILL GO WITH ***SPEED...***

...PATRIOT AND STATURE, WITH ***ME.***

SPEED AND I WILL VIBRATE THROUGH THE DOORS TO LET YOU IN...

...WHILE THE VISION PHASES IN ON HIS OWN AND WORKS AROUND DOOM'S SECURITY SYSTEM.

ARE WE CLEAR?

ARE WE EVEN ***LISTENING,*** CHILDREN?

WELL? WHAT ARE YOU ALL ***GAWKING*** AT? WHAT HAS MY FATHER DONE...?

...NOW?

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE ***RIGHT,*** UNCLE PETE...

CAGE

...WE NEED A BETTER PLAN.

THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW

DEATH OF SPIDER-MAN

BEGINNING IN FEBRUARY

ULTIMATE AVENGERS VS. NEW ULTIMATES #1
ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN #153

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IWANTMYPOWERS BACK, IWANTMY POWERSBACK, IWANT MYPOWERSBACK...

...IWANT MY--

CLICK-CLACK

WHOA...

YOU LIKE IT?

IT'S... *PERFECT.*

IT *IS*, ISN'T IT?

IT'S *ALL* BEEN PERFECT. MEETING VICTOR-- FALLING IN LOVE-- THE KING PROPOSING TO THE GYPSY GIRL.

IT'S ALL BEEN *TOO* PERFECT...

...UNTIL *YOU* SHOWED UP, AND VICTOR SUDDENLY BECAME SOMEONE I DON'T RECOGNIZE.

SO, BEFORE I WALK DOWN THE AISLE WITH HIM, *I* NEED YOU TO TELL ME *EVERYTHING.*

PLEASE...

TELL ME ABOUT THIS *SCARLET WITCH.*

ON *ONE* CONDITION...

"...YOU HAVE TO GET ME *OUT* OF HERE."

THE SCARLET WITCH WAS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEMBERS OF A TEAM OF HEROES CALLED THE *AVENGERS.*

"SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH--AND MARRIED--ANOTHER AVENGER, *THE VISION,* WITH WHOM SHE HAD TWIN BOYS--*THOMAS* AND *WILLIAM.*

"FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, THEY WERE A *HAPPY* FAMILY...

"...UNTIL THE TWINS'S SOULS WERE CAPTURED BY A CRIMINAL NAMED *MASTER PANDEMONIUM* FOR HIS MASTER, THE DEMON *MEPHISTO.*

"BUT THE SCARLET WITCH BLAMED *THE AVENGERS* FOR THE LOSS OF HER KIDS AND KILLED THREE OF HER TEAMMATES, *DESTROYING* THE TEAM.

"OR SO IT *SEEMED...*"

"...UNTIL A YOUNG HERO CALLED ***IRON LAD*** BEGAN RECRUITING A ***NEW*** GENERATION OF AVENGERS...

"... A GROUP OF KIDS WITH DEEPLY ***PERSONAL*** CONNECTIONS TO THE AVENGERS, EVEN IF THOSE CONNECTIONS WEREN'T IMMEDIATELY APPARENT.

"IN FACT, IT WASN'T UNTIL I MET A SPEEDSTER NAMED ***THOMAS***--WHO JUST HAPPENED TO LOOK LIKE MY IDENTICAL ***TWIN***--THAT I REALIZED..."

OH, NO...

WHAT?

WHAT DID YOU ***REALIZE?***

ONE WILL FALL

FANTASTIC FOUR

ISSUE #587

JONATHAN HICKMAN • STEVE EPTING

COVER BY ALAN DAVIS

THIS HISTORIC DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE WILL ARRIVE IN A SPECIAL POLYBAG

JANUARY 2011

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OH, DEAR GOD...

WHAT HAVE I *DONE*?

EVERYTHING WE TOLD YOU ***NOT*** TO, KID.

YOU TEAMED UP WITH *MAGNETO*...

...YOU STARTED A WAR WITH *DOOM*...

...AND I'LL BE DAMNED IF I KNOW *HOW*...

...BUT YOU ACTUALLY FOUND *THE SCARLET WITCH*...

...WHICH MAKES *MY* JOB *SO* MUCH EASIER.

WOLVERINE, *STOP!!* WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

WHAT DOES IT *LOOK* LIKE, KID?

I'M SAVING THE *WORLD*...

...AS USUAL.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

IT'S NOT *PERSONAL*, WANDA, BELIEVE ME.

IF OUR SITUATIONS WERE *REVERSED*--IF I WERE AS BIG A *THREAT* AS *YOU*--I'D EXPECT YOU TO DO THE SAME THING TO *ME*.

SHE'S *NOT* A THREAT!

SHE HAS *NO* POWERS-- *NO* MEMORY.

SHE'S WANDA MAXIMOFF, BUT SHE IS *NOT* THE SCARLET WITCH. NOT ANYMORE.

SHE'S NOT A THREAT TO *ANYONE*.

THANKS FOR LETTING ME KNOW, KID.

WITHOUT HER *POWERS*, SHE'S GONNA BE MUCH EASIER TO *KILL*.

WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ONE OF THE *GOOD* GUYS.

SO WAS *SHE.*

UNTIL SHE SLAUGHTERED HER FRIENDS AND WIPED OUT AN ENTIRE SPECIES WITH THREE LITTLE WORDS...

...*"NO MORE MUTANTS."*

RIGHT, WANDA?

WELL, YOU GOT YOUR WISH, SWEETHEART.

THANKS TO YOU, THERE'S ONLY A FEW OF US *LEFT.*

AND NOW, THANKS TO *ME...*

...THERE'S ABOUT TO BE ONE *LESS.*

UHNNN--!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT.

YOU ALL RIGHT?

IRON LAD

I'M BACK, BILLY. AND I'M HERE TO PROTECT YOU

THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL®

AGE OF X

WHAT YOU KNEW WAS WRONG!

JANUARY 2011

THE X-MEN NEVER EXISTED.

MUTANTS ARE ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION.

A CONSPIRACY THREATENS THEIR BROTHERHOOD.

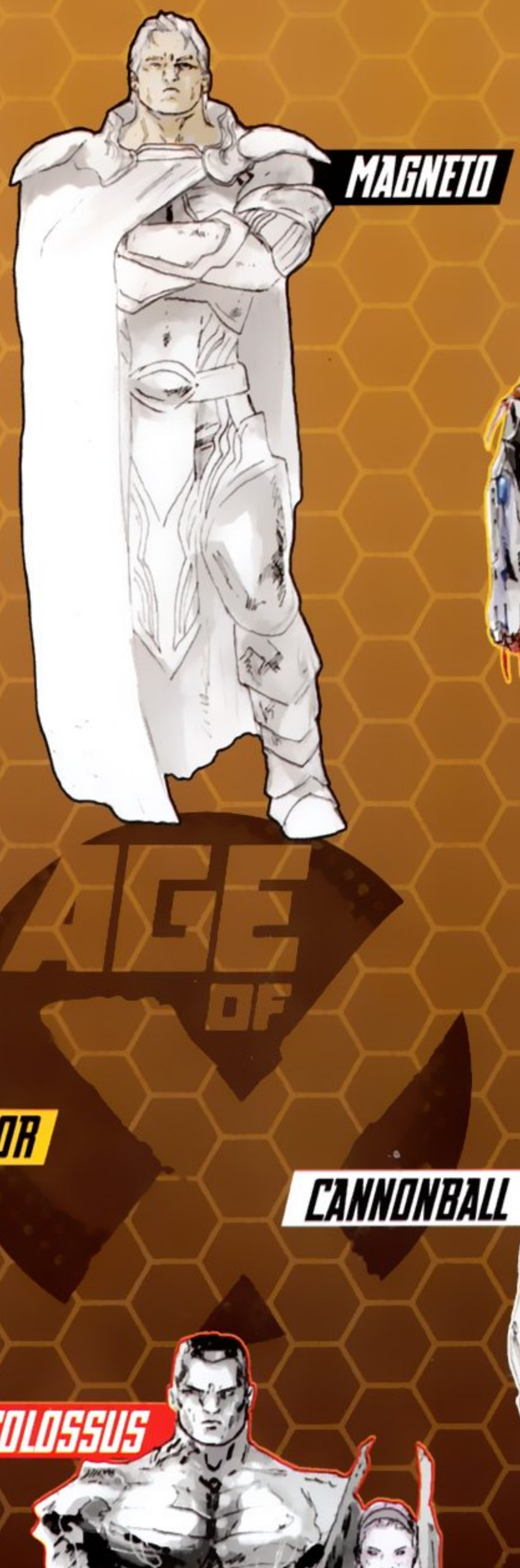
AGE OF X

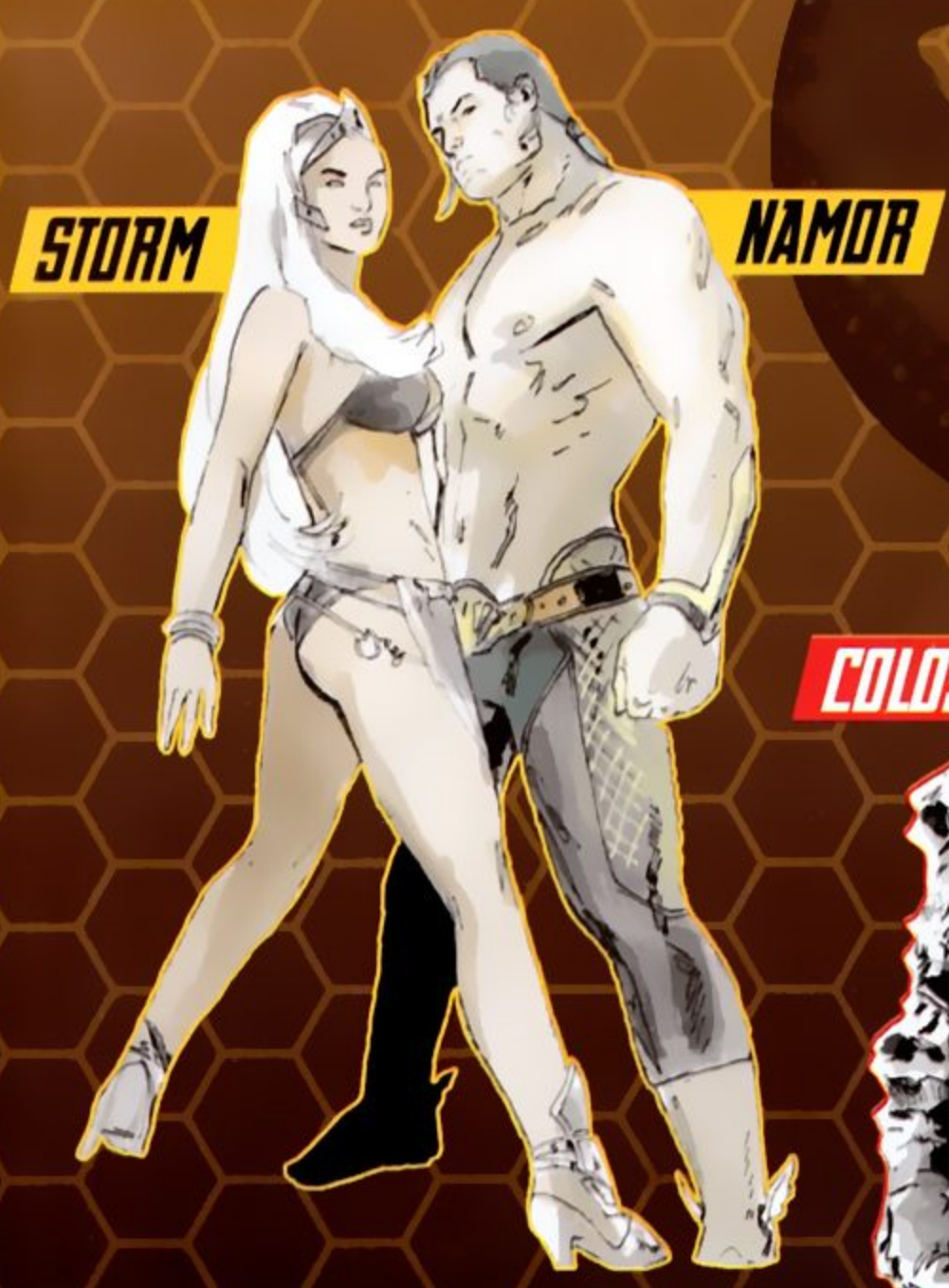
MUTANTKIND MAKES THEIR LAST STAND.

BUT WHO WILL SURVIVE...?

AGE OF X

CHARACTER DESIGNS BY CLAY MANN





AGE OF X FILES WITH MASTERMIND MIKE CAREY

MARVEL: For those new to Age of X, what's it all about?

MIKE CAREY: It's about the last few mutants surviving on planet Earth fighting a last-ditch -- and a seemingly hopeless battle for survival against an army that's to all intents and purposes infinite. When we meet them, they've been fighting for three years and there's no end in sight. From the confines of Fortress X, they go out into the field each day to fend off the latest wave of attacks, with no respite and terrible attrition. This is against the backdrop of a world that's never known the X-Men, or any other mutant super team – a world that's not even familiar with the concept of mutant heroes. Disorganized, isolated and helpless, most mutants have been picked off one by one, along with non-powered bearers of the X-gene and anyone who stood up to defend them. This is the last fight, and it's entering its final phase.

MARVEL: We've seen alternate stories before, but this is something completely different than anything we've seen before—how would you differentiate it?

MC: In a way, that's a question that can only be answered by the story itself – or after the story itself. There's a lot more going on here than we initially see. We present a situation, but we don't explain how it relates to the normal Marvel universe, or where it diverged from it. And then, at a certain point, we do. The answer is – I hope and believe – a million miles away from anything that readers will be expecting.

MARVEL: You've got a large cast of characters. Which have been your favorite to write? Any surprises?

MC: I always love writing Rogue, Gambit, Magneto. I've loved writing Basilisk, and I think you'll see why when you learn more about him. You won't believe what's been done to him, and what he's become. Writing Frenzy as a hero was very cool: so was writing a darker, more worldly wise version of Pixie, and a version of Cannonball who's basically expanded into a leadership role not occupied – in this world, never occupied – by Cyclops. The coolest thing, in fact, has been re-inventing the characters, and exploring how this world might have twisted them out of shape without changing who they essentially are.

MARVEL: There are no X-Men in this world, but the mutants have a unique mission that brings them together. Can you tell us a bit about that?

MC: It's purely a matter of survival - both for themselves and for their race. In the Alpha issue, we see the raw beginnings of a sort of comradeship that hasn't really existed up to this point – the sense of unity, as the hunted loners come together and discover for the first time how much more they can be. Arising out of that, within the main story arc, there's a mission that has to do with finding out a truth that's been very well hidden, and then dealing with the appalling consequences. There's a sense in which the army outside Fortress X if far from being the biggest problem they have to deal with – and the threat to mutant survival is a small part of a much big ger threat.

MARVEL: We've also heard you've developed a pretty intricate mythology for this reality. How much of this will we see play out in AoX? Anything particularly shocking or surprising you can hint at?

MC: There's a backstory which is huge, yeah – and some of it we only get through hearsay, as stories that the mutants tell each other around the campfires or in the bars at night when they're resting up from battle. Part of that is the origin of Fortress X itself, which is pretty insane and another part is how the world got into this state, with anti-mutant forces ruling with an iron fist. Outside of that, we've also got the origin stories of the characters themselves, some of which we see in the Alpha issue, and the unexpected role that non-mutant heroes have played in the genesis of the Fortress and the survival of the mutants. It's a really intricate and rich tapestry, and most of it will be seen or described at some point, with some little pieces of the jigsaw left to be inferred.

MARVEL: This is the first major crossover you've helmed at Marvel. Can you describe the experience?

MC: Well, I was heavily involved in Messiah Complex and Second Coming, too – but yeah, this time I get the whole toybox. It's an incredible feeling: a feeling of gathering momentum that's had editor Daniel Ketchum and I laughing slightly crazed laughs at each other over the phone. "We're gonna be able to do that? Okay, that's totally fantastic! Wait, BY WHEN???" The great thing is just being completely in control of all the story beats. It's a different kind of pleasure from the adrenaline-charged baton-passing of a crossover like Second Coming, with four creative teams and a weekly schedule. Seriously, I can't remember the last time I got this big a kick out of a single story.

MARVEL: Finally, let's talk Clay Mann designs. What makes him so perfect for this story?

MC: Clay's just amazing at coming up with the right visuals to embody and define this world. Right from the start, his character sketches just left me ecstatic. They not only gave me what I was asking for, but played off the central ideas of the story in spectacular and inspired ways. You look at these people and you want to know who they are and what their stories are. Plus, he gets the sense of huge scale, effortlessly. And I'm going to go out on a limb and say that he and Steve Kurth make for a great team-up: different styles, but beautifully complementary.

AGE OF X CHECKLIST

JANUARY

- ☐ AGE OF X ALPHA

FEBRUARY

- ☐ CHAPTER 1 - X-MEN LEGACY #245
- ☐ CHAPTER 2 - NEW MUTANTS #22

MARCH

- ☐ CHAPTER 3 - X-MEN LEGACY #246
- ☐ CHAPTER 4 - NEW MUTANTS #23
- ☐ AGE OF X UNIVERSE #1

APRIL

- ☐ CHAPTER 5 - X-MEN LEGACY #247
- ☐ CHAPTER 6 - NEW MUTANTS #24
- ☐ AGE OF X UNIVERSE #2

MIKE CAREY • CLAY MANN • STEVE KURTH • SIMON SPURRIER • KHOI PHAM

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A NEW ERA BEGINS WITH...

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

DAN SLOTT • PAULO SIQUEIRA

#654.1

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